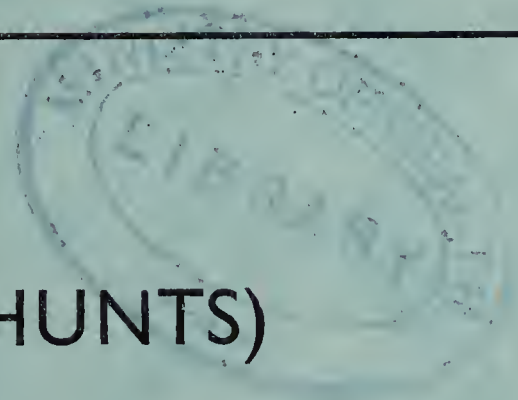


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ST. IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR 1954

LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham	Holywell-cum- Needingworth
Broughton	
Bury	Houghton and Wyton
Colne	Oldhurst
Earith	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Fenstanton	Somersham
Hemingford Abbots	Warboys
Hemingford Grey	Wistow
Hilton	Woodhurst

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

J. W. Harris, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

T. S. Christmas, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

D. B. Wright, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

R. W. Giddins, Esq.

Members:

E. H. Alderson, Esq., W. P. Allen, Esq., Mrs. M. Banks,
H. W. Bush, Esq., T. S. Christmas, Esq., R. E. Dalton, Esq.,
Revd. H. B. W. Denison, T. Greenwood, Esq., A. G. Gurry,
Esq., J. W. Harris, Esq., C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq., R. Johnson,
Esq., G. Kiddle, Esq., D. W. May, Esq., R. G. Saint, Esq.,
J. A. Searle, Esq., Miss V. M. G. Thackray, Revd. N.
Trafford, A. White-Robinson, Esq.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. and S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. G. Reeson, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.San.E.,
Cert. Bldg. Insp.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF SAINT IVES
IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1954

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the
Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Area for 1954.

The year under review has not been marked by any major change in the general health of the population of the district. The Death Rate shows a downward trend compared with last year and is still well below the figures for England and Wales as a whole. There were fewer births this year as compared with 1953, and with the increase in population by over 1,000, the result has been a slight decrease in the birth-rate.

By far the most common cause of death was due to diseases of the cardio-vascular system. Next, in order of incidence, was cancer. This order is general for the country as a whole. While infantile mortality was greater this year than last it is still well below the average for England and Wales.

Two small outbreaks of staphylococcal food poisoning occurred within a short time of one another at the beginning of January—four individuals were involved in the first and seven in the second. The cause was traced to infected clotted cream prepared on different occasions from the milk of the same cow. No case required admission to hospital, and the outbreak was very soon under control.

The year has passed without a case of diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurring in the district. Following the 1953 outbreak of poliomyelitis, immunisation against diphtheria is again back in full swing, and during the year 358 children were immunised.

The most frequent notifiable infectious disease to occur was measles, and next in order of incidence was whooping cough. Measures to deal with the control of infectious disease appear to be satisfactory.

The sanitary conditions of the district are referred to in detail in the Report, and it is pleasing to note the continual progress in sanitation and housing consequent on the Council's progressive policy.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and to their officers for their never-failing help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (middle 1954)	...	...	14,680
Population (middle 1953 ...	...	...	13,530
Area	...	...	45,911 acres.
Rateable value (April 1954)	...	...	£62,021
Sum represented by a penny rate (Net Product)	...	...	£256
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,036

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ...	101	104	205	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate ...	4	2	6	estimated population 14.4
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total ...	105	106	211	and Wales) ... 15.2
	—	—	—	

Still Births

Legitimate ...	4	4	8	Rate per 1,000 total
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	(live and still) births 36.5
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total ...	4	4	8	and Wales) ... 23.4
	—	—	—	

Deaths

(all ages) ...	60	69	129	Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated population 8.8
				(Ditto for England
				and Wales) ... 11.3

Deaths of Infants under one year

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	...	...	...
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...
	—	—	—
Total	3	2	5
	—	—	—

Death-rates of Infants under one year

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23.7
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	25.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	24.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause					M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	0
3	Syphilitic	...	...	...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	5	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	12
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	11	14
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	0	3
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	15	6
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	0	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	0
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total all causes						60	69

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available in the Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.
- (ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of Infectious Disease. Tel.: Huntingdon 59.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases.

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Hemingford Abbots (Tel.: St. Ives 3119) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel. Earith 226) attended cases in Earith, Bluntisham, Colne and Holywell-cum-Needingworth.
- (v) A nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (vi) A nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Room, Somersham. Baptist Chapel, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m. Every Wednesday (ex- cept 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Dental Clinic, Princes Street Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10.30 a.m.-12 noon. 2-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m. Males: Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m. Females: Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Fever.—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of Infectious Diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged by the County Medical Officer.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	61	72	8	6	4	11	1	163
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	5	125	65	195

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the district of children up to the age of 15 years:—

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster).					
A. 1950-1954	10	391	544	520	1465
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	340	364	704

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1954: 45

Pulmonary: 30

Non-Pulmonary: 15

AGE PERIODS				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	I	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

								Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								112

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.**—Water supplies to the district are supplied from the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board and by Huntingdon Rural District Council.

The supplies in all cases are obtained from shallow wells situated in the river gravels or greensand and pumped to either elevated or surface water reservoirs.

The supply position, especially in the eleven parishes served by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board, is still unsatisfactory.

The demand, however, is still increasing and the present pumping equipment of the Board is hardly sufficient to meet this demand in dry periods.

The rainfall during the year was very high, 29.19 inches being officially recorded at R.A.F. Station, Wyton, against the normal average of 21.5 inches, and this did increase the water levels in the river gravels, which had steadily fallen since 1947.

The Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board have now completed their negotiations with the Cambridge Water Company, for the latter to supply 250,000 gallons per day, which will be increased eventually to 500,000 gallons per day.

The scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Local Government, and will be commenced in 1955. This water, which is obtained from deep bore holes in the chalk, will be partially softened.

The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board are also considering the installation of softening plant, so it is possible that the bulk of the water supplied to the district will, in the near future, be improved both in quantity and quality.

Following the laying of mains to the Fen Areas in the north of the district, many houses and farms in those areas have been connected to the new mains.

It is possible that the demand in those areas will show a steady increase for agricultural purposes, and it is hoped that the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board scheme will soon be completed to meet this and other demands.

Short lengths of subsidiary mains were again laid to new housing estates and slowly but surely the network in the district is being extended to cover farms and houses that ten years ago were considered to be beyond the limits of the main.

Routine samples from all supplies indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory; 110 samples were taken during the year, two of which were unsatisfactory. Subsequent

samples were taken from these two supplies which were then found to be satisfactory.

There are, of course, a number of privately-owned shallow wells still in existence, but the water from the great majority of these is not used for drinking or domestic purposes, and all are gradually falling into disuse. It is now very difficult to obtain spare parts, such as leather buckets, etc., for old lead pumps, and as difficult to find a plumber to fit them. Speaking strictly from a Public Health and not a Rural Industries viewpoint, this position is surely an improvement.

A summary of the water supplies to each parish is given on page 11.

1. (2) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—One cannot comment on the Drainage and Sewerage position with the same satisfaction as on the Water Supply. Nevertheless the Council's Main Drainage Scheme for the district commenced in 1954 after a tender for the Somersham Scheme had been accepted and approved by the Ministry.

The total estimated cost of the Somersham Scheme is £152,250, on which the Ministry intimated that they were prepared to give a lump sum grant of £70,000, and the Huntingdon County Council, 49.4 per cent. of the loan charges on the nett cost of the scheme to the Council.

The Ministry subsequently converted the £70,000 grant to an equivalent annuity.

The general effect of these two grants is that the Council will have to bear approximately 25 per cent. of the total cost.

The estimated time for the completion of the Somersham Scheme was two years from the date of commencement, but from ground conditions and supply of labour, it is certain that this time will be considerably exceeded.

The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with working drawings, etc., for the Houghton, Wyton and Hemingford Abbots Scheme, for this to be placed out to tender as soon as possible.

The Council considered their policy on the provision of lateral drains, house connections and lavatory conversions, following the inception of the Somersham Scheme and decided that they would provide lateral drains and house connections to all properties connected to the existing sewer and that in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, they would require owners of property to convert Pail Closets to Water Closets, one-half of the approved expenditure in each case being reimbursed to the owner.

Following a report of the Consulting Engineers that the sewage works at Oldhurst, formerly used by the R.A.F. Station, Warboys, could be adapted and utilised for the disposal of sewerage from Warboys, Broughton and Oldhurst,

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Source of Supply	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Results of Analyses	Number of Analyses	Estimated No. of Dwellings Supplied from Mains	
						Direct from Mains Supply	Private Supplies
1. Bluntisham	Public mains	Adequate	Good	Satisfactory	110 samples taken from mains supply.	202	3
2. Broughton	"	"	"	"	"	61	21
3. Bury	"	"	"	"	"	208	7
4. Colne	"	"	"	"	"	143	16
5. Earith	"	"	"	"	"	180	26
6. Fenstanton	"	"	"	"	"	284	28
7. Hemingford Abbots	"	"	"	"	"	105	42
8. Hemingford Grey	"	"	"	"	"	303	57
9. Hilton	"	"	"	"	"	88	11
10. Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	"	"	"	"	"	162	58
11. Houghton & Wyton	"	"	"	"	"	496	28
12. Oldhurst	"	"	"	"	"	41	5
13. Pidley-cum-Fenton	"	"	"	"	"	116	6
14. Somersham	"	"	"	"	"	390	82
15. Warboys	"	"	"	"	"	556	106
16. Wistow	"	"	"	"	"	100	10
17. Woodhurst	" (with exception of Fen Area)	"	"	"	"	73	16
	Public mains	Adequate	Good	Unsatisfactory Satisfactory	Totals	3508	522

the works were purchased during the year. The Consulting Engineers were instructed to incorporate these works in the Warboys Scheme.

The small sewage disposal plants constructed to treat sewage from the Council's Housing Estates have continued to give useful service, but the effluents are not entirely satisfactory, as it is, of course, uneconomic to keep any permanent labour at these small plants.

The general position of the sewerage and drainage arrangements in the area remains the same but the outlook for the future, with the commencement of the main scheme, is much more hopeful.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The Great Ouse River Board carried out extensive works in the area during the year, including the dredging of the reaches below St. Ives.

Following the decision of the Council to abide by Counsel's opinion that a number of main ditches and brooks in the area were the responsibility of the County Council as the successor of the Surveyor of Highways, no work was undertaken on awarded watercourses.

Ditches and brooks in some cases that were polluted with sewage were, however, cleansed during the year.

The River Ouse remained at a high level throughout the year, and several meadows adjoining the river were flooded during the summer. One very heavy thunderstorm occurred in the centre of the district at mid-summer, as a result of which the main road at Broughton, and agricultural land at Needingworth, was badly flooded and considerable damage done to growing crops.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation.—The Council carried on with its programme of closet conversions, and a further thirty houses were converted to water closets during the year.

Work on Housing Improvements will tend to increase the number of conversions in the future.

3. (2) Public Cleansing.

(a) Night-soil Collections.—A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire-Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 2,000 pails being emptied each week. The night-soil is partially distributed over agricultural land, but the bulk is injected into the sewers at Oldhurst, where it passes, after suitable dilution, through the sewage works recently purchased by the Council from the Ministry of Works.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough, night-soil is also collected from Hartford, approximately 125 pails being emptied each week.

The service has been satisfactorily maintained, but labour difficulties have increased, and the Council are fortunate that this service has not had to be curtailed, as has happened with other local authorities who, with few exceptions, have never given the comprehensive service that is available in this area.

(b) **Cesspool Emptying.**—The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying as are used for the night-soil service, and they were kept fully employed during the year.

During 1954, 448 cesspools were emptied, an average of nine per week. A number of these are large septic tanks on industrial premises holding up to 25,000 gallons.

The standard charge of 25s. for each 750 gallon load, and the sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads, remained the same.

The service is utilised by neighbouring Authorities for desludging sewage tanks, gully and cesspool emptying at agreed charges.

(c) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—A weekly kerbside collection is made from practically every dwelling in the district, and the service was satisfactory during the year.

One new moving-floor rear-loading vehicle having a capacity of 15 cubic yards was purchased during the year, and the collections are carried out with another similar vehicle and a 10 cubic yard side-loader.

The amount of refuse collected continues to increase in bulk, and it is perhaps interesting to record that the new council house estates are putting out more refuse for collection than a corresponding number of cottages situated in the centre of a village.

The refuse is tipped at two old gravel workings situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey. A bulldozer is used to spread and level the refuse which is then sealed with earth. Both tips are regularly baited to reduce vermin and sprayed with various insecticides to control flies.

By arrangement with St. Ives Borough, a weekly kerbside collection of domestic refuse is carried out in the Borough by contract.

Contract work for the collection of Trade Refuse was also undertaken in the Borough and at two R.A.F. Stations situated in St. Ives Rural District.

Altogether, approximately 5,500 bins are emptied weekly.

Salvage.—No special effort was made to collect salvage as it would have been uneconomic to make any special collections. The market for waste-paper was limited and the price uneconomic.

Total income from salvage for the year was £20 compared with £12 in 1953. There appears to be little possibility that there will be any substantial increase in revenue from this source in the immediate future.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	...	558
Re-inspections ...	...	...	12
Number of Preliminary Notices served ...	...	...	34
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	...	...	30
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	0
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ...	...	...	0

Very little was done to improve the cottage property in the district during the year, and the majority of the older cottages continued to deteriorate. The high cost of repairs coupled with low rents make it uneconomic for owners to keep their property in a reasonable condition.

Notices requiring the execution of works were limited to essential repairs, such as leaking roofs, defective sanitary accommodation and water supplies.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	11	19	—	Nil
2. Section 7	34	40	1	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	45	59	1	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Defect	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were:—	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding ..	0	0	0	0
Temperature ..	0	0	0	0
Ventilation ..	0	0	0	0
Drainage of floors ..	0	0	0	0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1	0	0
Defective sanitary accommodation	1	1	0	0
Other offences ..	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	3	0	0
	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) **Inspections under Regulations, etc.:—**

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Pumps, wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Meat from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Total							1,628

As a result of the inspections recorded above, 302 informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of premises requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character, and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

3. (4) **Camping Sites.**—Four licences for camping sites were renewed by the Council. The sites were all maintained in a satisfactory manner, and have mains water supply, adequate sanitary accommodation and a sufficient number of refuse bins.

Licences were issued in respect of twenty-three caravans that are stationed in various parts of the district.

A number of itinerant van dwellers reside in the area during the summer months, most of whom are employed as casual labour on the farms.

3. (5) **Swimming Baths.**—There are no public baths in the area, but many people bathe in the River Ouse which is fairly heavily contaminated with sewage.

There is nothing new to report regarding the possibility of the St. Ives Rural District Council co-operating with St. Ives Borough to provide a swimming bath in St. Ives.

HOUSING

1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—				
(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	558
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		570
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	47
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		53
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	65
2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—				
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	... ..	56
3 Action under statutory powers during the year:—				
(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		0
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
		(a) By owners	... ..	0
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		0
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—		
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	0
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
		(a) By owners	... ..	0
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		0

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | ... | ... | 3 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

Overcrowding.—The amount of overcrowding in the area based on the standard laid down in the Act is very small. There are, however, a number of families who have insufficient bedroom accommodation, and such cases are considered when tenants are chosen for council houses.

Housing (General).

In 1945 there were approximately 3,120 inhabited houses in the district and this number has been steadily increasing as houses have been erected by the Council, private enterprise, and Government Departments, and has now reached a total of 4,036 houses.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of new Council and private houses since 1946:—

	Council houses completed	Huts converted	Huts demolished	Private houses completed
1946	18	—	—	10
1947	47	—	—	29
1948	50	20	—	19
1949	47	45	—	15
1950	47	—	4	21
1951	25	—	7	8
1952	56	—	14	2
1953	50	—	11	23
1954	74	—	14	23
	—	—	—	—
	414	65	50	150
	—	—	—	—

The total number of Council houses at the end of the year was 832, plus 15 temporary dwellings.

Steady progress was made in the completion of Council houses, 74 being completed, and a further 58 houses were under construction at the end of the year. In addition 23 private houses were erected and a further 24 were in course of construction.

The temporary dwellings continue to diminish as occupiers are re-housed by the Council, and the remaining huts should be cleared in 1955, thus ending a necessary but nevertheless unsatisfactory temporary expedient.

The improvement of insanitary houses and the demolition of those that are obsolescent is still a major problem, but the Council decided to formulate and operate a scheme for the making of Improvement Grants, and sixteen applications were approved before the end of the year.

It is anticipated that an increasing number of applications will be received from owners. At present, however, the majority of applications are received from owner-occupiers, and not in respect of the small blocks of sub-standard dwellings that are rapidly deteriorating.

The Council also decided to implement the system of guarantees to Building Societies, and of advances to finance the balance of the cost of improvements subject to each application being considered on its own merits; and three guarantees were given during the year.

There is nothing of note to report on slum clearance. A demolition order was made on one house, and three that were the subject of demolition orders were demolished.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

The bulk of the milk retailed in the area is supplied and distributed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short time Pasteurisation Plants.

There are three producer-retailers of farm-bottled Tuberculin Tested Milk who are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Supplementary and Dealer's Licences authorising the sale of milk under special designations were granted as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	... ..	7
Pasteurised	... ..	6
Sterilised	... ..	3

(b) **Ice Cream.**

Only one premises was licensed for the manufacture of ice cream, the sales from which were confined to two shops.

The remaining ice cream retailed in the area consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

(c) **Meat and other Foods.**

Number of licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	9
Number of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	11
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	176

Following the decontrol of the marketing and slaughtering of livestock, a number of butchers decided to re-use their licensed slaughterhouses. In a short while, however, the majority found that it was more convenient to have animals killed at the Public Abattoir at St. Ives, especially so as they were informed that their slaughterhouses would have to be modernised to conform to the new statutory requirements.

Very little slaughtering, therefore, has taken place in the district, the majority of the meat sold in the district being slaughtered at the Public Abattoir in St. Ives Borough.

The inspection of meat at this abattoir is carried out by the department, and the following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1038	189	2979	3321
Number inspected	1038	189	2979	3321
(All diseases except tuberculosis):—				
Whole carcasses condemned..	10	4	3	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	149	—	54	217
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	15.3%	2.1%	1.9%	7.1%
(Tuberculosis only):—				
Whole carcasses condemned..	12	—	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	73	—	—	59
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.0%	—	—	2.0%

Weights of Condemned Meat.

			Condemnations				
			Number killed	Number of whole carcases	Weight of whole carcases	Weight of Parts and Organs	Total Weight
Cattle	..	..	1038	22	13623 lb.	6795 lb.	20418 lb.
Calves	..	..	189	4	250 lb.	21 lb.	271 lb.
Sheep and Lambs			2979	3	249 lb.	193 lb.	442 lb.
Pigs	..	..	3321	26	2950 lb.	2522 lb.	5472 lb.
Total ..			<u>7527</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>17072 lb.</u>	<u>9531 lb.</u>	<u>26603 lb.</u>

Total animals killed: 7,527.

Total meat condemned: 11 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrts. 3 lb.

The number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* confirmed during the year was one, as against four cases in 1953. This was only a slight case and the carcass was released for sale after twenty-one days in cold storage.

Routine examination and condemnations of other foods were carried out, and a wide variety of foods were inspected; the following were condemned:—

Meat	...	...	...	46 lb.
2 tins Pears	...	...	...	2½ lb.
1 tin Apricots	...	...	...	2½ lb.
1 tin Meat	...	...	...	12 oz.

Adulteration.

Huntingdon County Council are the primary authority for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration. No special circumstances arose where it was considered that any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

